

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /071 W

-----230235Z 045284 /54

R 222055Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3985

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2335

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT SHUM AR UY CI BR

SUBJECT: JUNTA MEMBER LEIGH REJECTS FOREIGN PRESSURES AND REAFFIRMS

GOC UNITY

REF: A) SANTIAGO 2279, B) SANTIAGO 2251

1. SUMMARY: IN THE SAME TOUGH SPIRIT SHOWN IN COMMENTS MADE WHEN HE RETURNED TO SANTIAGO FROM MONTEVIDEO (REF A), AIR FORCE CINC/JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH, MARCH 21 SAID CHILE WOULD NOT ACCEPT FOREIGN MEDDLING IN ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS AND REAFFIRMED JUNTA UNITY. THE OCCASION WAS THE AIR FORCE'S ANNIVERSARY, MARKED BY THE FLY BY OF CHILE'S NEW F-5 AIRCRAFT AND A-37S. LEIGH STRESSED ARMED FORCES UNITY, HOWEVER, WHILE SUPPORTING RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS, HE SEEMED AT THE SAME TIME TO BE WARNING PRESIDENT PINOCHET THAT THE AIR FORCE'S ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE RESPECTED. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPEECH FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. ARMED FORCES UNITY: IN AN OBVIOUS FOLLOW UP TO PINOCHET'S MORE DEFENSIVE SPEECH OF MARCH 18 (REF B), LEIGH EMPHASIZED THAT THE AIR FORCE (FACH) STOOD WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS RECENT MEASURES: "OUR PLACE IN THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE RESULT OF THE ARBITRARY CAPRICE OF
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A CAUDILLO, BUT THE PRODUCT OF AN INSTITUTIONAL DECISION." BUT BY HIS EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF ALL THE ARMED FORCES IN THE GOVERNMENT, LEIGH MADE CLEAR TO CAREFUL LISTENERS THAT PINOCHET (WHO WAS IN THE AUDIENCE) HAD TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FACH: "THE FACH, JOINED TOGETHER WITH ITS SISTER FORCES, EMPHASIZES THE UNRENOUNCEABLE AIM OF MAINTAINING THE INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT ... BECAUSE THERE IS NO

DOUBT WHATEVER THAT IT IS A GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE ..." FOR LEIGH, THEREFORE, ARMED FORCES' UNITY IS NECESSARY FOR CHILE, BUT EACH VIEWS MUST NOT BE DISREGARDED.

3. LA DEFIANCE OF THE US: LEIGH LINKED CHILE TO THE LAS' DEFIANCE OF THE US: LA "IS NO ONE'S VASSEL." MORE-OVER, "OUR REPUBLICS, PURSUED AS EASY PREY BY THE GREAT POWERS WHO TRY TO SUBMIT THEM TO THEIR DOMINION." HAVE CHOSEN TO TURN TO MEN OF ARMS TO LEAD THEM. CHILE IS CONCERNED LESS BY ITS ENEMIES THAN BY ITS FRIENDS -- BY THE BLINDNESS, "WEAKNESS AND INCOMPREHENSION OF THOSE WHO SHOULD BE OUR FRIENDS" BUT ARE NOT INTERESTED ENOUGH TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CHILEAN SITUATION. THEY "WANT TO GIVE US LESSONS IN A SUBJECT (HUMAN RIGHTS) IN WHICH THEY SHOULD BE OUR PUPILS."

4. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: CHILE REJECTS THE "RIDICULOUS SPECTACLE" OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HARBORING NATIONS WHO CRITICIZE CHILE AS THEY THEMSELVES EXTERMINATE PEOPLE. "CHILE WILL NOT ACCEPT LESSONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS."

5. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS: LEIGH ALSO INTRODUCED THE MNCS INTO HIS THIRD WORLD STYLE ATTACK ON THE GREAT POWERS. OBVIOUSLY PICKING UP EX-AMBASSADOR KORRY'S TESTIMONY ABOUT THE MNCS' BRIBES OF ALLENDE, LEIGH SAID THE SAME ENTERPRISES HAD THE GALL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "UNWARRANTED CONDEMNATION" OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, WE
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MAINTAIN "OUR UNALTERABLE AIM OF KEEPING OURSELVES FREE FROM THE DESTABILIZING PRESSURES, OF THE THE GREAT POWERS AND OF THEIR BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, WHICH SUPPORT THEIR SORDID PURPOSES."

6. COMMENT: LEIGH MAKES A FINE POLEMICIST. THIS WAS A LEIGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN PUBLICLY IN MANY MONTHS -- FORCEFUL, TOUGH, OUTSPOKEN, INTOLERANT OF DOMESTIC DISSENT AND FOREIGN MEDDLING. HIS MESSAGE IS OF DEFIANCE TO THE FOREIGNERS, JUNTA UNITY, ON THE BASICS AND A WARNING TO PINOCHET NOT TO PRESS AGAINST THAT UNITY TOO HARD. THE THIRD WORLD RHETORIC IS UNUSUAL FOR THE JUNTA. IN USING IT LEIGH IS TRYING TO IDENTIFY CHILE WITH STILL ANOTHER GROUPING -- THAT OF THE SOUTHERN CONE'S MILITARY REGIMES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA02335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770098-0827
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770335/aaaabduj.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SANTIAGO 2279, 77 SANTIAGO 2251
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3034314
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUNTA MEMBER LEIGH REJECTS FOREIGN PRESSURES AND REAFFIRMS GOC UNITY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, AR, UY, CI, BR, US, (LEIGH, GUSTAVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aae334b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009